

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 04941 031046Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4941

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - SECRETARY'S MIDEAST TRIP

1. AUGUST 3 MEDIA FOCUS REMAINS ON SYRIAN PARLIAMEN-
TARY ELECTIONS. FRONT PAGES OF THREE DAMASCUS DAILIES
GIVE STRAIGHT NEWS PLAY TO CONCLUSION OF SECRETARY'S
TALKS IN EGYPT USING WIRE SERVICES REPORTS. ONLY TWO
INSIDE EDITS ON VISIT APPEAR.

2. UNSIGNED EDITORIAL ON PAGE 3 OF THAWRA IS CAPTIONED
"VANCE'S TRIP...CAN IT BREAK THROUGH TI ISRAELI WALL?"
EDITORIAL ADVANCES THEORY THAT ISRAELI PROPAGANDA EFFORTS
TO PLAY UP IMPORTANCE OF VISIT IN ORDER TO MAKE ARABS
SCAPEGOAT IN CASE GENEVA FALLS THROUGH. ARTICLE STATES:
"BEFORE LEAVING WASHINGTON VANCE SAID HE WAS NOT CARRY-
ING ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS REGARDING A PEACEFUL SETTLE-
MENT OF THE CRISIS AND THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY QUICK
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PROGRESS AS A RESULT OF HIS TOUR. DESPITE THIS, THE
ZIONIST PROPOGANDA MACHINE IS TRYING TO ADD SPECIAL IM-
PORTANCE TO VANCE'S TRIP, CLAIMING THAT THE SECRETARY
HAS COME TO THE AREA TO ACCOMPLISH MIRACLES...ISRAEL
(THUS) WANTS TO EXPLOIT THE CURRENT VANCE TOUR TO ACCOM-
PLISH SOME PROPAGANDA GOALS WHICH AIM A HOLDING THE ARABS
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FAILURE OF INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO

RECONVENE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. "

ARTICLE CONTINUES: "ISRAEL IS BETTING THAT THE U. S. SECRETARY OF STATE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE ANY POSITIVE RESULTS IN THE M. E. CRISIS (AND) IS TRYING TO EMPLOY VANCE'S TOUR TO SERVE ITS EXPANSIONIST GOALS AND PLANS GEARED TO SWALLOW MORE ARAB LANDS AND PREVENT THE ARAB PALESTINIAN PEOPLE FROM REGAINING THEIR NATIONAL RIGHTS AND SELF DETERMINATION."

3. ONE PAGE 8 OF TISHRINE, JUBRAN KOURIEH WRITES:

"IT IS PREMATURE TO TALK ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF VANCE'S VISIT TO THE M.E. OR ABOUT THE PROPOSALS HE CARRIES WITH HIM. BUT IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE ELEMENTS FOR SUCCESS OF FAILURE ARE HIDDEN WITHIN(THE PROPOSALS) HE CARRIES." KOURIEH STATES THAT ANY SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL MUST BE BASED ON FOUR PRINCIPLES: (1) ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967; (2) PERMITTING THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO EXERCISE THEIR NATIONAL RIGHTS; (3) PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE OR ANY OTHER CONTEXT FOR NEGOTIATION; (4) ENDING THE STATE OF WAR. KEITH

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